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Poetry.

IN MEMORIAM ACADEMIC MEDIOCRITIES.

To Fred.

When you and I were boys, Fred,

Not many years ago,

Our lives were fraught with joys, Fred,

That only youth may know.

All then was joy and gladness,

And we were blithe and gay,

And every trace of sadness

Was quickly wiped away.

The school-house stands there still, Fred,

Where once we used to meet,

But now its well worn sill, Fred,

Is rot by other feet.

The benches all are there within,

That once we used to cut;

The cages that we made wherein,

Unlucky flies to shut.

But other knives than ours, Fred,

Now hack those time-worn seats,

And others spend their hours, Fred,

In "loving" stolen seats.

The "rising generation" now

Are filling up our places

With, here and there, a thoughtful brow,

Bright eyes and smiling faces.

The brook still murmurs on, Fred,

As once it used to flow,

And still it sings its gentle song,

With cadence sweet and low:

That soft and mossy green, Fred,

On which we used to play—

Yest! everything is there, Fred,

But "The boys" are far away.

Yes! all that happy band, Fred,

That band so blithe and gay,

Are scattered through the land, Fred,

Are scattered far away:

Some East, some West, some North, some

South.

In search of greedy gain,

And some to drink of learning's founts—

But you and I remain.

Then let us hold together, Fred,

And bind our friendship fast

With chains that never shall sever, Fred,

As long as life shall last:

And as we jog along in life,

Where'er our lot is cast,

We'll ever cherish in our hearts

Those memories of the past.

P.

Sydney Smith on the Education of Women.

One of the greatest pleasures of life is

conversation; and the pleasures of con-

versation are of course enhanced by

every increase of knowledge; not that

we should meet together to talk of

history and philology—though a little

of these things is no bad ingredient in

conversation; but let the subject be dif-

ference between the conversation of

those who have been well educated and

those who have not enjoyed these ad-

vantages. Education gives fecundity of

thought, copiousness of illustration,

quickness, vigor, fancy, words, images

illustrations—it decorates every com-

mon thing, and gives the power of

trifling without being undignified and

absurd. The subjects themselves may not

be wanted upon which the talents of an

educated man have been exercised; but

there is always a demand for those tal-

ents which his education has rendered

strong and quick. Now, really, nothing

can be further from our intention

than to say anything rude and unpleas-

ant; but we must be excused for ob-

serving that it is not now a very com-

mon thing to be interested by the vari-

ety and extent of female knowledge, but

it is a very common thing to lament

that the finest faculties in the world

have been confined to trifles utterly un-

worthy of their richness and their

strength.

The pursuit of knowledge is the most

innocent and interesting occupation

which can be given to the female sex;

nor can there be a better method of

checking a spirit of dissipation, than by

diffusing a taste for literature. The

true way to attack vice, is by setting up

something else against it. Give to

women, in early youth, something to

acquire, of sufficient interest and impor-

tance to command the application of their

native faculties, and to excite their per-

severance in future life; teach them that

happiness is to be derived from the ac-

quisition of knowledge, as well as the

gratification of vanity, and you will

raise up a much more formidable barrier

against dissipation, than a host of in-

terests and excitements can supply.

It sometimes happens that an unfor-

tunate man gets drunk with very bad

wine—not to gratify his palate but to

forget his cares; he does not set any val-

ue on what he receives, but on account of

what it excludes; it keeps out something

worse than itself. Now, though it were

denied that the acquisition of serious

knowledge is of itself important to a

woman, still it prevents a taste for silly and

perpetual works of imagination; it keeps

away the hour of fancy; and, in lieu of

that, it gives her a more useful and

valuable occupation; it gives her a

more useful and valuable occupation;

it gives her a more useful and valuable

occupation; it gives her a more useful

and valuable occupation; it gives her

a more useful and valuable occupation;

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The Dog Noble, and the Empty Hole.

The first summer which we spent in

Lenox, we had along a very intelligent

dog named Noble. He was learned in

many things, and by his dog-like ex-

pression of admiration of all the chil-

dran. But there were some things

which Noble could never learn. Having

on one occasion seen a red squirrel run

into a hole in a stone wall he could not

be persuaded that he was not there for

evermore.

Several red squirrels lived close to

the house and had become familiar, but

not tame. They kept up a regular romp

with Noble. They would come down

from the maple trees with provoking

coquetry; they would run along the

fence almost within reach; they would

cock their tails and sail across the road

to the barn; and yet there was such a

well-timed calculation under all this ap-

parent rashness, that Noble invariably

arrived at the critical spot just as the

squirrel left it.

On one occasion Noble was so close

upon his red-backed friend that, unable

to get up the maple tree, he dodged in-

to a hole in the wall, ran through the

chinks, emerged at a little distance, and

sprung into the tree. This intense en-

thusiasm of the dog at that hole can

hardly be described. He filled it full of

barking. He pawed and scratched as if

undermining a bastion. Standing off at

a little distance he would pierce the hole

with a gaze as intense and fixed as if he

were trying magnetism on it. Then, with

tail extended, and every hair thereon

erectified, he would rush at the empty

hole with a prodigious onslaught.

This imaginary squirrel haunted Noble

night and day. The very squirrel

himself would run up before his face in-

to the tree, and crouched in a crotch,

would sit silently watching the whole

process of bewildering the empty hole,

with great subtlety and relief. But

Noble would grow of no doubts. His con-

vinced that that hole had a squirrel

in it, and that he was waiting for him

when all other occupations failed this

hole remained to him. When there

were no more chickens to hunt, no pigs

to bite, no cattle to chase, no children to

romp with, no expeditions to make with

the grown folks, and when he had slept

all that his dog-skin would hold, he

would walk out of the yard, yawn and

stretch himself, and then look wistfully

at the hole, as if thinking to himself,

"Well, as there is nothing else to do I

may as well try that hole again!"

We had almost forgotten this little

trait, until the conduct of the New York

Express, in respect to Col. Fremont's

religion brought it indelicately to mind

again. Col. Fremont is, and always has

been, a Protestant as John Knox ever

was. He was bred in the Protestant

faith and has never changed. He is

unacquainted with the doctrines and

ceremonies of the Catholic Church, and

has never attended the services of

that Church, with two or three excep-

tions, when curiosity, or some extrin-

sic reason, led him as a witness. We do

not state this upon vague belief. We

know what we say. We say it upon our